



#6/Election
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P. Spruell
PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Koji SHIGEMATSU

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 09/722,506

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Filed: November 28, 2000

Docket No.: 105192.01

For: PROJECTION OPTICAL SYSTEM AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS AND METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

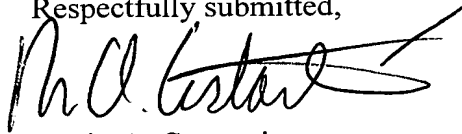
In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated February 27, 2002, Applicant hereby elects Group III, claims 54-66. The election is made with traverse.

The Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on November 28, 2000 and on January 4, 2001.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions". It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant, and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Date: March 26, 2002

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